

RE: Oil and Gas Complaint (Brigham Oil and Gas) in Williston, North Dakota

[REDACTED] to: [REDACTED]

11/16/2011 07:20 AM

From: [REDACTED]@nd.gov>

To:

[REDACTED]

Our state Ag dept notified us of the complaint mentioned below back in September. We followed up with a call to the land owner and talked for some time. When asked if we could arrange a time to come up and assess the issue, he hesitated and said that the spill never made it to the creek. He mentioned several times not to come up. Like your message states, he was frustrated by the response from the company. I assured him that what happened is not the proper method of handling frac water. We contacted the company and also expressed our concern with this incident. They said this was an isolated occurrence, this is not how they handle frac water and it would not happen again. Th

at PP

[REDACTED] He did mention that he collected a sample of the runoff water. He also mentioned that if the sample results were bad, he would give us a call; we have not received that call as of yet. I followed up with a call to our Ag dept since the complaint was forwarded to us and let them know of our findings. They thanked us for checking into the complaint. As far as we are concerned, this complaint is closed.

[REDACTED]

NDPDES Program Manager
North Dakota Department of Health
Gold Seal Building
918 East Divide, 4th Floor
Bismarck ND 58501-1947

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@epamail.epa.gov
[mailto:[REDACTED]@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2011 7:54 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Oil and Gas Complaint (Brigham Oil and Gas) in Williston, North Dakota

Hi [REDACTED]

The citizen complaint below was received by EPA on September 15,

2011, and sent to the EPA's underground injection control (UIC) program as the lead program for this complaint. I looked into the complaint last week and talked to the UIC program and found out that it is more of a NPDES issue, so I apologize that this complaint was not sent to you sooner.

On September 15, [REDACTED] filed a complaint from a farmland owner [REDACTED] whose name is [REDACTED]. His ranch [REDACTED] is located [REDACTED] miles west of Williston, North Dakota. The well's name appears to be Maryland Iverson well, which is in close proximity to [REDACTED] ranch. After Brigham Oil and Gas was done fracking the well [REDACTED] then placed [REDACTED] rough the berm of the frack pit and frack fluid flowed to [REDACTED] farm and into his stock watering pond for his animals and then [REDACTED] the Painted Wood Creek that flows into to the Missouri River. [REDACTED] said the water flowing onto his property looked dirty.

[redacted] called Brigham Oil and Gas and they said that that is the way they do business. The person he talked to at Brigham Oil and gas was [redacted].

Since the incident happened 2 months ago and now the farm land is covered in snow, going out to the property now might not be the most effective way of following up on this complaint. One option would be for EPA to send out a CWA section 308 information request to Brigham Oil and Gas to obtain information related to this alleged discharge including what was in the fracking water, the quantity discharged, as well as any other potential discharges that may have occurred. This approach is similar to what we are considering with other operators and O&G waste haulers under the Energy Extraction National Initiative. It has also proven to be a useful tool in other areas of the NPDES program. Let me know what you think about this approach, or other ideas you have for follow up.

Thanks,

To report an environmental violation, please visit EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/complaints/index.html>